

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of claims will replace without prejudice all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A screen panel for a wood-chip digester, comprising a screen plate having a plurality of slots therein, wherein said slots are curved and have a width in the range of from approximately 3 mm to approximately 10 mm and a chord length in the range of from approximately 0.75 inches to approximately 3 inches.
2. (Original) A screen panel according to claim 1, wherein said slots have a chord length in the range of from approximately 1.5 inches to approximately 3 inches.
3. (Original) A screen panel according to claim 1, wherein said slots have a chord length in the range of from approximately 1 inch to approximately 1.25 inches.
4. (Currently amended) A screen panel ~~according to claim 1~~ for a wood-chip digester, comprising a screen plate having a plurality of slots therein, wherein said slots are curved in the form of an arc and have a width in the range of from approximately 3 mm to approximately 10 mm and a radius of curvature in the range of from approximately 0.75 inches to approximately 3 inches.
5. (Original) A screen panel according to claim 4, wherein said slots have a radius of curvature in the range of from approximately 1.5 inches to approximately 3 inches.
6. (Original) A screen panel according to claim 4, wherein said slots have a radius of curvature in the range of from approximately 0.75 inches to approximately 1.25 inches.
7. (Original) A screen panel according to claim 4, wherein each said slot is defined between two sides having equal radii of curvature.
8. (Original) A screen panel according to claim 4, wherein all of the slots have their concave sides facing in the same direction, and said panel is arranged to be installed in a digester with that direction being the upstream direction of chip flow.

9. (Original) A screen panel according to claim 1, wherein the slots have the said width in the range of from 3 mm to 10 mm in the middle of the thickness of the screen plate, and widen out towards the surface of the screen plate on ~~both sides~~ at least one side of the plate.

10-14. (Canceled).

15. (Original) A screen panel according to claim 1, wherein the slots have the said width in the range of from 3 mm to 10 mm at one side of the screen plate, and the slots widen out continuously at an angle from that side to the other side of the screen plate.

16. (Original) A screen panel according to claim 1 for a substantially cylindrical screen, wherein the screen plate is arranged to be angled at approximately 1° to the axis of the cylindrical screen.

17-19. (Canceled).

20. (Original) A screen panel for a wood-chip digester, comprising:

a screen plate having a plurality of slots therein;

wherein said slots are curved in the form of an arc;

wherein each said slot is defined between two sides having equal radii of curvature in the range of from approximately 0.75 inches to approximately 3 inches;

wherein said slots have a chord length in the range of from approximately 0.75 inches to approximately 3 inches;

wherein said slots have a generally parallel-sided middle portion in the middle of the thickness of the screen plate, which middle portion has a width in the range of from approximately 3 mm to approximately 10 mm;

wherein the slots and have a portion that tapers out at an angle on at least one side of the middle portion, at a half-angle in the range of from approximately 10° to approximately 20°, for approximately one quarter to one half of the thickness of the plate;

wherein all of the slots have their concave sides facing in the same direction; and

wherein said panel is arranged to be installed in a digester with that direction being the upstream direction of chip flow.

21. (Original) A screen panel according to claim 20, wherein said slots have a generally parallel-sided middle portion in the middle of the thickness of the screen plate, which middle portion has a width in the range of from approximately 3 mm to approximately 10 mm; and wherein said slots have a portion that tapers out at an angle on at least one side of the middle portion, at a half-angle in the range of from approximately 10° to approximately 20°, for approximately one quarter to one half of the thickness of the plate.

22. (Original) A screen panel for a wood-chip digester, comprising:

- a screen plate having a plurality of slots therein;

- wherein said slots are curved in the form of an arc;

- wherein each said slot is defined between two sides having equal radii of curvature in the range of from approximately 0.75 inches to approximately 3 inches;

- wherein said slots have a chord length in the range of from approximately 0.75 inches to approximately 3 inches;

- wherein said slots have a width in the range of from approximately 3 mm to approximately 10 mm at one side of said screen plate;

- wherein said slots taper out at an angle from said one side of the screen plate at a half-angle in the range of from approximately 5° to approximately 20° to the other side of the plate;

- wherein all of the slots have their concave sides facing in the same direction; and

- wherein said panel is arranged to be installed in a digester with that direction being the upstream direction of chip flow.

23. (New) A wood-chip digester having a screen panel comprising a screen plate having a plurality of slots therein, wherein said slots are curved and have a width in the range of from approximately 3 mm to approximately 10 mm and a chord length in the range of from approximately 0.75 inches to approximately 3 inches.

24. (New) A wood-chip digester according to claim 23, wherein said slots have a chord length in the range of from approximately 1.5 inches to approximately 3 inches.

25. (New) A wood-chip digester according to claim 23, wherein said slots have a chord length in the range of from approximately 1 inch to approximately 1.25 inches.

26. (Currently amended) A wood-chip digester having a screen panel comprising a screen plate having a plurality of slots therein, wherein said slots are curved in the form of an arc and have a width in the range of from approximately 3 mm to approximately 10 mm and a radius of curvature in the range of from approximately 0.75 inches to approximately 3 inches.
27. (New) A wood-chip digester according to claim 26, wherein said slots have a radius of curvature in the range of from approximately 1.5 inches to approximately 3 inches.
28. (New) A wood-chip digester according to claim 26, wherein said slots have a radius of curvature in the range of from approximately 0.75 inches to approximately 1.25 inches.
29. (New) A wood-chip digester according to claim 26, wherein all of the slots have their concave sides facing in the same direction, and said panel is installed in said digester with that direction being the upstream direction of chip flow.
30. (New) A wood-chip digester according to claim 23 comprising a substantially cylindrical screen comprising said screen plate, wherein said screen plate is angled at approximately 1° to the axis of the cylindrical screen.